



*Always Ready  
Always There*

# *The Gem State Guardian*

The official newsletter of the  
**Idaho National Guard**

**ISSUE #99  
DECEMBER 18  
2015**

## Spirits of Nampa – Caldwell dedicated

by Idaho National Guard Public Affairs

(BOISE) The Airmen of the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Fighter Wing invited civic leaders from both Nampa and Caldwell, as well as media, to view a ceremony dedicating an A-10C Thunderbolt II aircraft to each city. The event was held at Gowen Field in Boise on Friday, Dec. 18.

The 124FW is painting community-specific "nose art" on A-10C aircraft -- eventually dedicating each of the 21 Idaho Air National Guard fighter jets assigned to Gowen Field to honor an Idaho community.

This Idaho ANG community recognition program acknowledges the support and sacrifices communities and citizens make to defend freedom at home and abroad.

Historically, combat flying squadrons used nose art (creative dedications to specific people, places, or concepts) to personalize combat aircraft and boost unit morale. Artwork was in high demand during World War II, and extravagant creations highlighted unit pride and cohesion.



Mayor Garret L. Nancolas, the mayor of Caldwell, Idaho, and Master Sgt. Raymond A. Spall, a crew chief with the 124th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, unveil the "Pride of Caldwell" during an aircraft dedication ceremony Dec. 18, 2015 at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. During the ceremony not only was the "Pride of Caldwell" unveiled, but the "Pride of Nampa" was presented to the community. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Joshua C. Allmaras/Released)

In this tradition, the United States Air Force allows specialized artwork for aircraft that is distinctive and symbolic to enhance unit morale.

More than 1,300 Air National Guardsmen from across Idaho support the mission of the A-10C through either full-time or part-time participation in military readiness training. They support both the federal combat mission of the 124th Fighter Wing and the state of Idaho's military mission

as directed by the governor and led by the adjutant general.

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